

REMARKS

I. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the careful consideration of this application. The Office Action dated February 5, 2009 has been received and its contents carefully considered. Claims 1 and 3-14 are currently pending in this application. Claim 2 remains cancelled. Applicant amends claims 1 and 3-14 in accordance with U.S. practice. Based on the following remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn.

II. HOKANSON ET AL REFERENCE

Applicant requests U.S. Patent No. 5,967,286 to Hokanson et al. be made of record in the application. The Action uses the Hokanson et al document to reject the claims as obvious, but the document is not listed on the PTO Form 1492. Applicant respectfully requests this document to be made of record in the present application.

III. CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(B)

On page 2, the Office Action rejects claims 1, 3-8, 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by E.P. Patent No. 1,227,267 to Morone. The rejection is respectfully traversed. Claims 3-8, 13 and 14 depend from independent claim 1 and overcome the § 102(b) rejection for at least the same reasons.

A. CLAIM 1

Claim 1 recites "said fixed half-pulley is fixed to said supporting shaft, and in that said first cam is defined by a single tubular body made of plastic material co-moulded on

said supporting shaft." The Office Action aligns the claimed "fixed half-pulley" with the Morone half-pulley 201, the claimed "supporting shaft" with the Morone driven shaft 2, the claimed "first cam" with the Morone cam 208, and the claimed "plastic material" with the Morone material 210.

First, Applicant respectfully submits that Morone fails to disclose "said fixed half-pulley is fixed to said supporting shaft" (Emphasis Added). Rather, the Morone half-pulley 201 is mounted on the driven shaft 2 by means of bearings. Further, Morone provides, "a fixed half-pulley 201, which is integral (for example, made of a single piece) with a sleeve or bushing 2a **mounted by means of bearings 2b, 2c on the driven shaft 2** of the variable speed drive" The half-pulley 201 is not **fixed** to the *driven* shaft 2. In fact, the Morone half-pulley 201 is rotatable with respect to the driven shaft 2 (See Morone Figure 1). More specifically, the half-pulley 201 is connected to the support shaft 2 via a centrifugal clutch mechanism with teeth 207 and cams 208 when the conditions of rotation are above a predetermined threshold speed only (See Morone Figure 3). Therefore, at low speeds the half-pulley 201 is rotatable with respect to the support shaft 2. (See Morone paragraphs [0026] – [0028]). Applicant respectfully submits that Morone at least fails to disclose "said fixed half-pulley is fixed to said supporting shaft."

Second, Morone fails to disclose "said first cam is defined by a single tubular body made of plastic material co-moulded on said supporting shaft" (Emphasis added). Rather, the projections 208 of Morone are created by molding a plastic material 210 over metal pieces (the V shaped branches 212 and 213 and branch 211 of the T-shaped core) and welding the V shaped branch 213 to the plate 203b (See Morone paragraphs [0037] and [0039] and Figures 2 and 3). Morone does not provide for a "single tubular body" as

the claimed invention. The Morone plate 203b is part of the centrifugal clutch mechanism that connects the fixed half-pulley 201 to the drive shaft 2 only as of a predetermined threshold speed. Therefore, at low speed the half-pulley 201 is not rigidly connected to the drive shaft 2 and, hence, neither are cams 208. Applicant respectfully submits Morone fails to describe, "said first cam is defined by a single tubular body made of plastic material co-moulded on said supporting shaft" as recited by claim 1. In addition, Applicant describes further drawbacks of Morone beginning in paragraph [0006] of the specification., which drawbacks are addressed by the present invention.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing remarks.

B. CLAIMS 3-8, 13 AND 14

Claims 3-8, 13 and 14 depend from independent claim 1 and overcome the §102(b) rejection for at least the same reasons as claim 1. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing remarks.

IV. CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(A)

On page 4 of the Office Action, claims 9-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morone in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,967,286 to Hokanson et al. The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Claims 9-12 depend from claim 1, which, as demonstrated above, is patentable over Morone for at least the reasons. Hokanson fails to remedy the deficiencies of Morone. Based on the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 9-12 are patentable over the cited references.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks.

V. CONCLUSION

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

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